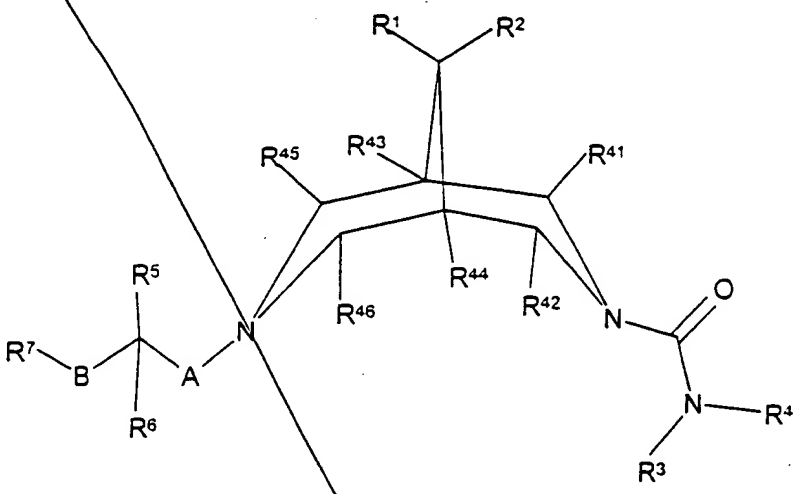
Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing the requested revisions is attached.

1 (Amended). A compound of formula I,



I

wherein

R^1 and R^2 independently represent H, C_{1-4} alkyl, OR^{2b} or $N(R^{2c})R^{2d}$, or together form $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$, $-(CH_2)_3-$, $-(CH_2)_4-$ or $-(CH_2)_5-$;

R^{2b}, R^{2c} and R^{2d} independently represent H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^3 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl or, together with R^4, represents C_{3-6} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups);

R^4 represents H, C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy (which latter two groups are both optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected

from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4} alkyl and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy), $-(CH_2)_q$-aryl, $-(CH_2)_q$-oxyaryl, $-(CH_2)_q$-Het^1 (which latter three groups are optionally substituted (at the $-(CH_2)_q$- part and/or the aryl/Het^1 part) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $-C(O)R^{10}$, $-C(O)OR^{11}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$, C_{1-6} alkyl and/or C_{1-6} alkoxy), $-(CH_2)_qN(H)C(O)R^8$, $-(CH_2)_qS(O)_2R^8$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)R^8$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)OR^8$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)N(R^9)R^8$ or, together with R^3, represents C_{3-6} alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or is optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups);

q represents 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

R^8 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $-C(O)R^{10}$, $-C(O)OR^{11}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$, C_{1-6} alkyl and/or C_{1-6} alkoxy) or, together with R^9, represents C_{3-7} alkylene;

R^9 represents H, $C_{,4}$ alkyl or, together with R^8, represents C_{3-7} alkylene;

Het^1 represents a five to twelve-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^{41}, R^{42}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45} or R^{46} independently represent H or C_{1-3} alkyl;

R^5 represents H, halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{12}$ or, together with R^6, represents =O;

R^6 represents H, C_{1-4} alkyl or, together with R^5, represents =O;

R^{12} represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-S(O)_2-C_{1-4}$-alkyl, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{15})R^{15a}$ or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $-C(O)R^{10}$, $-C(O)OR^{11}$, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$, C_{1-6} alkyl and/or C_{1-6} alkoxy);

R^{13} represents H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{14} represents H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{15} and R^{15a} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl, or together represent C_{3-6} alkylene, optionally interrupted by an O atom;

A represents a single bond, C_{1-6} alkylene, $-N(R^{16})(CH_2)_r-$ or $-O(CH_2)_r-$ (in which two latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_r-$ group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom);

B represents a single bond, C_{1-4} alkylene, $-(CH_2)_nN(R^{17})-$, $-(CH_2)_nS(O)_p-$, $-(CH_2)_nO-$ (in which three latter groups, the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing R^5 and R^6), $-C(O)N(R^{17})-$ (in which latter group, the -C(O)- group is attached to the carbon atom bearing R^5 and R^6), $-N(R^{17})C(O)O(CH_2)_n-$, $-N(R^{17})(CH_2)_n-$ (in which two latter groups, the $N(R^{17})$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing R^5 and R^6) or $-(CH_2)_mC(H)(OH)(CH_2)_n-$ (in which latter group, the $-(CH_2)_m-$ group is attached to the carbon atom bearing R^5 and R^6);

m represents 1, 2 or 3;

n and r independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p represents 0, 1 or 2;

R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^7 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl or Het^2, all of which groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated (as appropriate) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, Het^3, $-C(O)R^{10}$, $C(O)OR^{11}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{18}$, $-S(O)_2R^{19}$, $-OS(O)_2R^{20}$, $-N(H)C(O)N(H)R^{21}$, $-C(O)N(H)R^{22}$ and/or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano groups);

Het^2 and Het^3 independently represent a five to twelve-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{21} and R^{22} independently represent H or C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally terminated by cyano); and

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent, at each individual occurrence, H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{11a} represents, at each individual occurrence, C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a [pharmaceutically acceptable] salt, solvate or protected derivative thereof;

provided that:

(a) when A and B are both single bonds and R^7 is optionally substituted aryl, then R^5 and R^6 do not both represent H;

(b) when A represents a single bond, then R^5 and R^6 do not together represent =O; and

(c) when R^5 represents $-OR^{12}$ or $-N(R^{13})R^{12}$, then:-

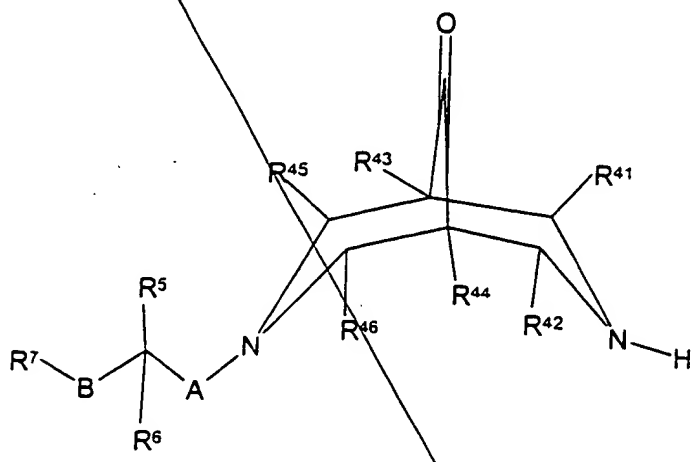
(i) A does not represent $-N(R^{16})(CH_2)_r-$ or $-O(CH_2)_r-$; and/or

(ii) n does not represent 0 when B represents $-(CH_2)_nN(R^{17})-$, $-(CH_2)_nN(O)_p-$ or $-(CH_2)_nO-$.

16 (Amended). A compound as claimed in Claim 15, wherein R^7 represents phenyl (substituted by a cyano group and by one or more optional $C(O)N(H)R^{22}$ substituent).

26 (Amended). A compound of formula II, as defined in Claim 25, or a protected derivative thereof, provided that R^7 does not represent optionally substituted phenyl or C_{1-6} alkyl.

33 (Amended). A compound of formula XXIII,



XXIII

wherein R^5, R^6, R^{41}, R^{42}, R^{43}, R", R^{45}, R^{46}, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, R^7 represents aryl or Het^2, all of which groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated (as appropriate) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, Het^3, $-C(O)R^{10}$, $C(O)OR^{11}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{18}$, $-S(O)_2R^{19}$, $-OS(O)_2R^{20}$, $-N(H)C(O)N(H)R^{21}$, $-C(O)N(H)R^{22}$ and/or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano groups); or a protected derivative thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

38 (New). A compound as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the cyano group is in the 4-position relative to B.

B7 39 (New). A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the arrhythmia is an atrial or a ventricular arrhythmia.